Vol. 2. Numb 43

THE REHEARSAL.

1. God did not Approve of *Rebellion* under the Greateſt *Tyranny*.
2. The *Practice* of *Nations* Conſider'd. before the *Flood*, during the firſt *Aſſyrian Monarchy*, to the *Grecian Common-Wealths* and Downward, to *Poland* at this Day.
3. our *Nature* Corrupted more and more.
4. We know not what it was before the *Fall*.
5. *Natural* and *Spiritual* Oppoſite, Of *Natural Religion*.
6. All *Rebellion* is againſt the *Law* of *Nature*.
7. The Univerſal *Conſent* of *Mankind* is the *Law* of *Nature*.
8. This is for *Jure Divino* and *Paſſive Obedience*.
9. All our *Parliaments*, as well as *Clergy*, are made *Scarlet Traytors* for this, and ſent to *Tophet*.

SATURDAY, *March* 6th. 1707.

(1.) *Country-man.* YOU have ſhew'd in your laſt, *Maſter*, how little Reaſon the *Review* had to ſay, That *God* did Approve in all Ages of *Subjects* taking *Arms* againſt their *Princes* on the Account of *Tyranny*. You have given ſome of the hardeſt Inſtances that are Poſſible to be found, as of the *Jews* under *Pharoah*, and *Ahaſuerus*, and the Caſe of *David* perſecuted by *Saul*. And you have put it upon the *Review* to ſhew any *Inſtance* in any *Age* where *God* did Approve of *Subjects* taking *Arms* againſt their *Kings*, on any *Pretence* whatſoever.

But you have not Anſwer'd the other *Topick* he inſiſts upon, which is, That this *has been the Practice of all Nations in the World*. Or otherwiſe, That *the Law of Nature muſt be Treaſon*.

(2.) *Rehearſal.* It has been indeed too much the *Practice* of *Nations*. But not ſo *Univerſal* neither as the *Review* thinks. We Read of none before the *Flood*. And after the *Flood* and the *Diviſion* of *Nations*, Mr. *De Foe* is deſir'd to try his hand, and ſee what Inſtances he can find of *Rebellion* during the Firſt and Greateſt *Monarchy* that of the *Aſſyrians*, which is call'd the *Head of Gold* in Compariſon of the after *Monarchies* which Degenerated into *Silver* and *Braſs* and *Iron* and *Clay*, in the lower *Members* down to the *Feet*. Then it was that *Belial* got in and Seduc'd the *Nations*, and fill'd them with falſe Notions of *Liberty* to their own Deſtruction. And having taken *Government* from off its *Original* and only *Foundation* of *Jure Divino*, and Plac'd it upon the face of the *Waters*, the Giddy *Voice* of the *People*, they cou'd never bring it to bear, or make *Common Senſe* of it, from its being firſt ſet up in the *Grecian Commonwealths* down to this Day, but perpetual *Toſſing* and *Tumbling*, Kicking this *Ball* of *Government* from one to another, and cutting one anothers *Throats* about it, in continual *Revolutions* and *Havock* of the *People*. This was their Bleſſed *Liberty!* The *Liberty* to *Kill* and *Deſtroy* and *Devour* one another! Of this the *Greek* and *Roman* Stories are Flagrant *Proofs*. And *Poland* now before our Eyes, which is *Plunder'd* and *Pilleg'd*, their *Boors* Hang'd, and their *Houſes* Burnt, by Contending *Armies* of *Muſcovites*, *Coſſacks*, *Tartars*, *Swedes* and *Saxons*, all Aſſerting the *Liberty* of the *Poles*, and themſelves helping on the *Deſtruction* as faſt as any, *Killing* and *Ravaging* one another, that *Strangers* may not get all! What tho' the *Country* is *Ruin'd*, and the *People* undone! What ſignifies all that, ſince they Preſerve their *Liberty!* They have *Liberty* ſtill to Chooſe their *King*! And they that have not a *Penny* left, have *Liberty* to get more—— when they Can!

Country-m. Who wou'd not be Fond of ſuch a *Liberty*! But ſtill, *Maſter*, this is *Natural*. Or elſe, *the Law of Nature muſt be Treaſon*.

(3.) *Rehearſ.* It is very *Natural* for *People* when they are let Looſe from *Government*, to *Prey* upon one another. To Covet one anothers *Wifes*, *Houſes*, *Eſtates*, &c. And many

ny things that are *Treaſon* againſt *God*, as being a Breach of His *Laws*. But this, you will ſay, is *Corrupted Nature*. And ſo it is. And the Longer *Nature* has Liv'd ſince Its firſt *Corruption*, it is ſtill farther Remov'd from its Primitive *Innocency*, and has Grown *Worſe* and *Worſe*. And it will be *Corrupted* ſtill more, till it Arrive at its final *Judgment*, That *when the Son of Man comes, ſhall He find Faith upon the Earth*? It looks to be Drawing near that Time at this Day!

(4.) See then what we ſhall get by following our *Nature*! Whither will our *Corrupted Nature* Lead us? And what it was in its *Innocency* we know not. More than of the State of the *World*, or other things before the *Fall*. So that if we will follow *Nature*, it muſt be our own Now *Corrupted Nature*, for we know none other.

(5.) Moſt of the Precepts of the *Goſpel* are to *Curb* and *Deny* and *Mortify* our Corrupt *Nature*. And *the Natural Man knoweth not the things of God, for they are Spiritually diſcerned*. Yet what a vein has Run among us of late, to give a Looſe to *Nature*, to make *That* our *Guide* and our *Rule* even in *Religion*, and to Prefer its *Green-Boughs* before the *Wither'd Branches* of *Revelation*! How has *Natural Religion* been ſet up in Oppoſition to the *Reveal'd*, even by *Spiritual* Men among Us! And the Laws of *Nature* Made more *Neceſſary* and *of more Indiſpenſable Obligation, than any poſitive Precept of Reveal'd Religion*! And Faith in *Chriſt* is nothing elſe but a *Poſitive Precept* of *Reveal'd Religion*. But I hope theſe Men did not ſee the Terrible *Conſequences* of theſe *Poſitions*. However others may be *Infected* by them, and therefor it is Neceſſary Now and Then to Detect them, and to Caution People againſt them.

(6.) But now as to *Government* it ſelf, which is the Point to which Mr. *Review* do's here apply it, look the word *Nature* in the *Index* of the *firſt Volume*, and ſee what is there ſaid as to the *Law* of *Nature* in Relation to *Government*. And there you will find, That if the *Law* of *Nature* may be Meaſur'd by the Common *Conſent* of *Mankind*, and that for *Thouſands* of *Years* together, without any Interruption, then *Monarchy* and *Paſſive Obedience* are the *Law* of *Nature*; whether Conſider'd in its *Original* from *Adam*, or in its *Deduction* through the *Firſt* and *Pureſt Ages* of the *World*. And then it will follow, That all *Rebellion* or taking *Arms* againſt our Lawful *Soveraigns*, upon any *Pretence* whatſoever, is *Treaſon* againſt the *Law* of *Nature*. And that the *Law of Nature* ſet up by the *Grecian Commonwealths*, and Deduc'd down to Us, *Muſt be TREASON* againſt the *Law of Nature* known to the Whole *World* before.

(7.) *Country-m.* This muſt be, Unleſs they will ſay, That the *Law* of *Nature* may *Alter* and *Vary*, And then what is it? Where or How ſhall we find it? How ſhall we *Fix* it? What *Rule* can it be to Us?

And if the Univerſal *Conſent* of *Mankind* be not the *Law* of *Nature*, let them ſhew What is the *Law* of *Nature*? What then are we Diſputing about!

(8.) *Rehearſ.* And if it comes to a *Compariſon*, what *Moſt* Men do Hold, they will Loſe the Point that way too. For I have ſhew'd before, and it is at this Day Obvious to Every Man's Eye, That *Monarchy* and *Paſſive Obedience* has *Continu'd*, and at this day, *Prevails* in far the Greateſt Part of the *World*, and Ever did, notwithſtanding all the *Triumphs* of *Belial* among the *Greek's* and *Romans*.

(9.) *Country-m.* And if the *Clergy* who have Preach'd up *Paſſive Obedience* and *Jure Divino* are Guilty of the *Blood* of all the *Kings* that have been *Depos'd* and *Murder'd* (as Mr. *Review* ſays) becauſe Mankind is Prone to Taſt of the *Forbidden Fruit*: Then all our *Parliaments* are Under the ſame Condemnation who have Declar'd the ſame, and Barr'd all *Coercion* upon the *Crown*. They are, according to Mr. *Review*, and as he words it, *Scarlet Traitors*, their *Treaſon* Smells of *Tophet*, 'tis as *Black* as *Hell*, and Aggravated with the very ſame Guilt for which their Grand Father *Judas* Hang'd himſelf. As I Quoted him before Num. 40.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Juſt Publiſh'd.

A Farther Vindication of the Short View of the Profaneneſs and Immorality of the Engliſh Stage, in which the Objections of a late Book, entituled, a Defence of Plays. Are conſider'd, by *Jeremy Collier*, M. A. Printed for *R. Sare* at Grays-Inn-Gate in in Holborn, and *George Strahan* at the Golden Ball in Cornhill.

THE Title, Preface and Index to the firſt Volume of Rehearſals: being, A View of the Times, their Principles and Practices. By PHILALETHES.

THE Socinian Controverſy Diſcuſs'd: Wherein the Chief of the Socinian Tracts (Publiſh'd of Late Years here) are Conſider'd. By *Charles Leſlie*, Chancellor of the Cathedral of *Connor*.

THE Devout Communicants Companion or Contemplations on the bleſſings Conſequent to the worthy Receiving the Sacrament of the Lords Supper. And all the duties required, in order to a worthy Preparation. With Meditations and Diſcourſes upon the Communion Office, as alſo Devotions ſuited to all the parts of that ſolemn Ordnance. In a new method, by the Author of the Excellency *of the Chriſtian Religion*, price bound 1 s.

CHarity and Unity, in a Sermon preach'd at Hertford School-Feaſt by *Henry Neilſon*, Rector of Hunſden, and Vicar of Stanſted Abbot in Hertford-ſhire.

London Printed and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. 1707.